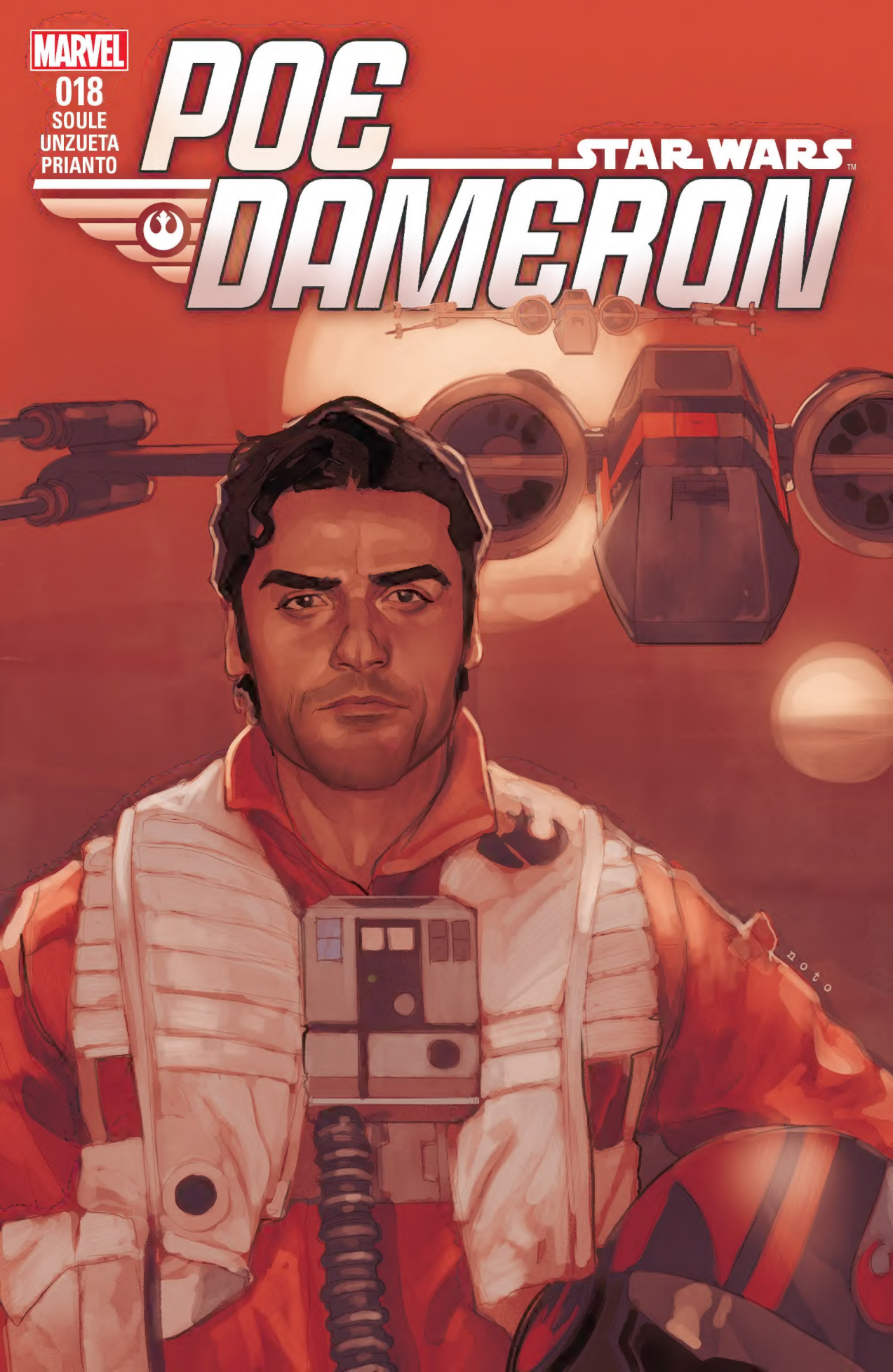
MARVEL
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PRIANTO
POE DAMERON
STAR WARS
noto

WAR STORIES
Part II

It is a time of uncertainty in the galaxy. Standing against the oppression of the First Order is General Organa's Resistance, including Poe Dameron and his team of pilots – Black Squadron.

Black Squadron's former ground tech Oddy Muva has betrayed them, resulting in the death of fellow Squadron member, L'ulo. However, after Oddy double-crosses the First Order, Poe Dameron isn't the only person hunting him down.

Meanwhile, support for the Resistance continues to dwindle as few in positions of power believe the First Order is a threat. General Organa dispatches Jess, Karé, and new recruit, Suralinda Javos, to begin fighting the war on a new front. Together they set out on a reconnaissance mission to expose the true nature of the First Order....

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NOW, THIS IS REALLY ALL JUST A MISUNDERSTANDING.
TO BE MORE SPECIFIC: NONE OF *YOU*...
...UNDERSTAND *ME*.

THIS WILL KEEP HAPPENING UNTIL YOU *DO* UNDERSTAND.

SO.

LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN, FROM THE BEGINNING.

WE HAVE ACCESS TO IMPERIAL SURVEY RECORDS INDICATING A MASSIVE VEIN OF THORILIDE CRYSTALS IS PRESENT ON THIS PLANET.

THE EMPIRE NEVER GOT AROUND TO MINING IT, WHICH MEANS IT IS STILL HERE, SOMEWHERE. WE DON'T HAVE A PRECISE LOCATION.

YOU...AH... *PEOPLE* USE THORILIDE IN YOUR NATIVE TECHNOLOGY. WE JUST WANT TO KNOW WHERE YOU *GET* IT.

SAVE US TIME, AND SAVE YOURSELVES PAIN. WE'LL EVEN PAY FOR THE INFORMATION, AND FOR MINING RIGHTS.

THE FIRST ORDER DEALS FAIRLY WITH ALL ITS PARTNERS.

DO YOU KNOW WHY THE EMPIRE NEVER STRIPPED THIS PLANET BARE?

WE KNEW OF OTHER PLANETS WHO AGREED TO THE EMPEROR'S TERMS, AND OVER TIME FOUND THEIR WORLDS BURNED, THEIR CHILDREN IN CHAINS.

WE REFUSED TO ALLOW THAT TO HAPPEN HERE.

OUR PEOPLE DECIDED THAT WHATEVER THE EMPIRE TOOK FROM OUR WORLD WOULD COST THEM MORE THAN THEY GAINED. NO MATTER WHAT THAT DECISION COST *US*.

THE EMPIRE HAD GUNS, AND THAT IS A KIND OF POWER. BUT WE HAD *WILL*, AND THEY COULD SEE IT. SO THEY MOVED ON, TO EASIER TARGETS, TO MORE COMPLIANT WORLDS.

I ASSURE YOU. WE ARE NOT THE EMPIRE. WE ARE THE FIRST ORDER. WE ARE *BETTER*.

PFF. YOU COME HERE LOOKING *EXACTLY* LIKE THE PEOPLE WHO WANTED TO ENSLAVE US AND STEAL THE TREASURE OF OUR WORLD...

...AND YOU ACT EXACTLY AS THEY DID.

AGAIN, YOU MISUNDERSTAND. WHEN I SAY WE ARE *BETTER*, I MEAN WE WILL SUCCEED WHERE THE EMPIRE FAILED, ON EVERY WORLD, *IN EVERY WAY*.

THAT INCLUDES HERE, WHERE WE *DO* HAVE THE GUNS, AND MORE IMPORTANTLY...

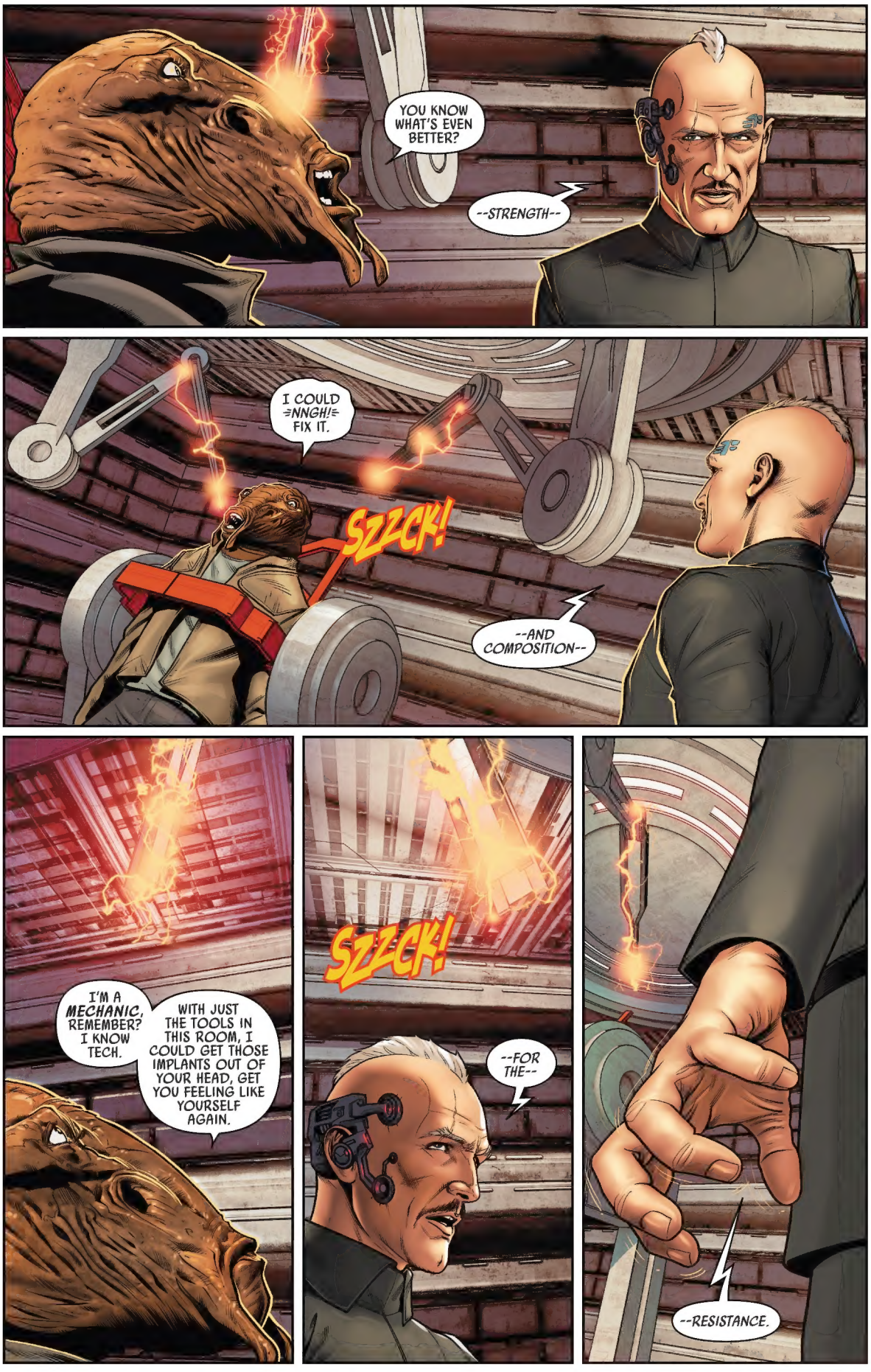
...NO ONE IS WATCHING.
OH, WOW.
THIS IS PERFECT.
"PERFECT," SURALINDA? THEY'RE ABOUT TO KILL THESE PEOPLE.
I DON'T THINK THAT WILL HAPPEN, JESS--AND IN THE MEANTIME, WE'RE GETTING UNBELIEVABLE FOOTAGE.
FIRST ORDER TROOPS THREATENING A DEFENSELESS VILLAGE? LIKE I SAID...
...PERFECT.
I THINK WE SHOULD MOVE IN. WE GOT HERE TOO LATE TO SAVE THAT FIRST GUY, BUT MAYBE WE CAN STOP THIS BEFORE IT GETS ANY WORSE.

I UNDERSTAND THE IMPULSE, KARÉ, AND I DON'T WANT ANYONE TO DIE EITHER, BUT YOU BOTH NEED TO REMEMBER THE MISSION.
OUR JOB HERE IS TO GET FOOTAGE OF THE FIRST ORDER BEING ALL MONSTROUS, SO WE CAN GET IT ON THE HOLONET AND HELP DRUM UP SUPPORT FOR THE RESISTANCE.
BUT IF WE GET IN THERE BEFORE THEY GET REALLY EVIL, THEN WHAT'S THE POINT?
NOT TO MENTION THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF THEM DOWN THERE, AND ONLY TWO OF YOU.
TWO? YOU WOULDN'T HELP?
I'M NOT A SOLDIER. I'M A JOURNALIST. MY JOB IS THE STORY.
AND YOU MIGHT NOT LIKE HEARING IT, BUT THIS STORY WOULD SAVE LIVES--MANY TIMES ANY THAT MIGHT BE LOST TODAY.
POTENTIALLY BILLIONS, IF WE CAN STOP ANOTHER GALACTIC WAR. IF YOU ATTACK, ALL OF THAT'S LOST.
IMPOSSIBLE MORAL CHOICES. MY FAVORITE.
NOW I KIND OF WISH I'D GONE WITH POE AND SNAP. ALL THEY HAVE TO DO IS HUNT DOWN A TRAITOR.

"THAT'S EASY."
UH... WHAT?
RUN THAT BY US AGAIN?
I KNOW WHY YOU'RE HERE. YOU'RE LOOKING FOR MY HUSBAND, ODDY MUVA. YOU THINK HE BETRAYED YOUR CAUSE.
WE DON'T THINK IT, MA'AM. WE KNOW IT.
BUT WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW IS THIS: HE HAD NO CHOICE.
AN AGENT FROM THE FIRST ORDER SECURITY BUREAU, TEREX--
WE'RE FAMILIAR.
ALL RIGHT... SO YOU KNOW JUST HOW EVIL HE IS. HE HAD TAKEN ME PRISONER, MADE ME HIS SLAVE, ALONG WITH OTHER PEOPLE HE THOUGHT HE COULD USE.
ODDY DIDN'T WANT TO TELL TEREX ANYTHING ABOUT THE RESISTANCE, BUT IT WAS THE ONLY WAY TO KEEP ME ALIVE!
AND THE FIRST CHANCE HE GOT, HE RESCUED ME AND THE OTHER SLAVES, AND THEN HE TOOK OVER TEREX'S SHIP AND USED IT TO ATTACK HIS FLEET!
MY HUSBAND IS A HERO!

WHAT DO YOU THINK, POE?
I DUNNO, SNAP...I-- HMM.
LISTEN, MA'AM...I'M SORRY, I DIDN'T CATCH YOUR NAME.
SOWA CHUAN.
OKAY, SOWA, LISTEN. WAR IS TOUGH. EVERYONE DOES THINGS THEY DON'T WANT TO. THINGS THEY'D NEVER OTHERWISE DO.
I KNOW ODDY. I LIKE ODDY...BUT HE MADE BAD CHOICES. MAYBE THEY WERE TOUGH CHOICES FOR HIM, BUT THAT DOESN'T TURN IT ALL AROUND.
PEOPLE GOT HURT. OUR FRIEND L'ULO DIED TRYING TO PROTECT YOUR HUSBAND.
I...I DIDN'T KNOW THAT. HE TALKED ABOUT L'ULO. HE WAS IN AWE OF HIM. ALL OF YOU, REALLY. POE DAMERON, SNAP WEXLEY, THE WHOLE SQUADRON. I KNOW YOU ALL, THROUGH HIM.
HE WANTED TO BE A PILOT ONE DAY.
I'M SORRY THAT IT WENT THIS WAY, BUT ODDY HAS TO ANSWER FOR WHAT HE DID. AND WITH US, HE'LL GET A FAIR TRIAL.
YOU SHOULD KNOW, WE THINK THE FIRST ORDER'S LOOKING FOR HIM, TOO. THEY WON'T LET AN ASSET LIKE THAT GO.
I...I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO!
JUST TELL US WHERE HE WENT, SOWA. LET US FIND HIM BEFORE THE FIRST ORDER DOES. LET US KEEP HIM SAFE, SO YOU CAN SEE HIM AGAIN.
I...ALL RIGHT. HE TOOK A JOB, AS A MECHANIC ON A TRANSPORT. HE WAS TRYING TO EARN ENOUGH MONEY FOR US TO START OVER SOMEWHERE.
I CAN GIVE YOU THE ROUTE.
OKAY, PHEW. I THOUGHT MAYBE THE FIRST ORDER ALREADY HAD HIM. HE STILL KNOWS A LOT ABOUT THE RESISTANCE.

"WHO KNOWS HOW THEY'D BE TRYING TO GET IT OUT OF HIM."
HA!
THIS IS FANTASTIC!
THEY DID TO YOU EXACTLY WHAT YOU DID TO MY WIFE, TO ME, TO ALL THE OTHERS. IT'S ABSOLUTELY PERFECT.
TEREX, MY FRIEND...
KRRCKL
PROVIDE INFORMATION ON GROUND TROOP STRENGTH AND COMPOSITION FOR THE RESISTANCE.
...THEY MADE YOU A SLAVE.
...
PROVIDE INFORMATION ON GROUND TROOP--


YOU KNOW WHAT'S EVEN BETTER?
--STRENGTH--
I COULD =NNGH!= FIX IT.
SZZCK!
--AND COMPOSITION--
I'M A MECHANIC, REMEMBER? I KNOW TECH.
WITH JUST THE TOOLS IN THIS ROOM, I COULD GET THOSE IMPLANTS OUT OF YOUR HEAD, GET YOU FEELING LIKE YOURSELF AGAIN.
SZZCK!
--FOR THE--
--RESISTANCE.

IT'D BE EASY. I CAN SEE JUST HOW I'D DO IT. SNIP A FEW WIRES, UNDO A FEW CONNECTIONS.
WOULDN'T TAKE ME ANY TIME AT ALL.
SURE. THAT WOULD WORK. I COULD USE THAT.
BUT I WON'T.
I WILL NEVER DO ANYTHING FOR YOU AGAIN, TEREX.
YOU'RE A SLAVE, TEREX.
GET USED TO IT.
AHAHAHAHAHA!
PROVIDE INFORMATION ON GROUND TROOP STRENGTH--

YOU MIGHT KILL US ALL TODAY. THAT IS YOUR CHOICE.
BUT YOU WILL NEVER LEARN WHAT YOU WANT TO KNOW. AND EVEN IF WE DIE...
...WE WOULD DIE FREE.
YOU JUST REFUSE TO UNDERSTAND, DON'T YOU?
KILL THIS ONE NOW, AND ANOTHER. WE'LL WAIT TEN MINUTES, THEN FOUR MORE. THEN EIGHT.
YES, SIR-- BUT AT THAT RATE, WE'LL BURN THROUGH THE VILLAGE QUICKLY.
THAT'S ALL RIGHT. WE'LL JUST FIND OURSELVES ANOTHER VILL--

SZZ-CK!
SZZ-CK!
TAKE COVER! RETURN FIRE!
WHAT ARE YOU TWO DOING? THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM--YOU'LL JUST GET EVERYONE KILLED, YOURSELVES INCLUDED!
SORRY TO DISAPPOINT YOU, SURALINDA. BUT WE'RE NOT JOURNALISTS.
WE'RE SOLDIERS.

SHE MIGHT BE RIGHT, JESS. WE'VE LOST THE ELEMENT OF SURPRISE, AND THEY'RE STARTING TO ZERO IN ON ME.
JUST KEEP MOVING, KARÉ. WE NEED TO BUY TIME FOR THE VILLAGERS TO GET AWAY. ONCE THEY'RE CLEAR, WE CAN REGROUP AND HEAD BACK TO OUR CAMP.
I THINK IT'S JUST TWO SHOOTERS. CALL IN THE PERIMETER PATROLS--TAKE THEM ON THEIR FLANKS!
RIGHT AWAY, SIR.
I THINK WE'VE DONE WHAT WE CAN HERE, KARÉ. LET'S MOVE OU--
AGH!
JESS! WHAT HAPPENED?
JESS!

THEY GOT JESS, KARÉ--THEY MUST HAVE HAD OTHER UNITS OUTSIDE THE VILLAGE!
YOU NEED TO GET OUT OF THERE NOW--I SEE THREE MORE COMING UP ON YOUR POSITION!
ROGER THAT.
KZZCK! KZZCK!
I'M MOVING OU-- AAGH!
OH, NO.
THIS ALL COULD HAVE BEEN SO BLASTED SIMPLE.
WHY I AM THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SEE THE BIG PICT--
DROP THAT WEAPON!

HEY THERE, BOYS. LET'S NOT DO ANYTHING HASTY, RIGHT?
I'VE GOT SOMETHING I THINK YOUR BOSS WOULD *REALLY* LIKE TO KNOW.
WE FOUND ANOTHER ONE, SIR, AS WELL AS AN X-WING AND AN OLD REBELLION-ERA Y-WING.
SHE SAYS SHE HAS SOMETHING IMPORTANT--SOME INFORMATION SHE'D LIKE TO TRADE.
WELL, BRING HER IN! I HAVE TO SAY, THIS IS ALL GETTING *MUCH* MORE INTERESTING.

NNGH!
SO...YOU HAD SOMETHING TO TELL ME? WHO ARE YOU, ANYWAY?
MY NAME IS SURALINDA JAVOS.
...AND I'M RECORDING ALL OF THIS.
I'VE GOT CAMERA DRONES IN PLACE, SENDING THEIR FOOTAGE TO A RELAY IN ORBIT. IT'S SET TO TRANSMIT TO MY OFFICE ON HOSNIAN PRIME AUTOMATICALLY IF I DON'T CHECK IN.
PLAUSIBLE?
COULD BE, SIR. SHE HAD MONITORS AND RECORDING GEAR UP AT HER CAMP.
WELL...THIS IS NOT IDEAL. WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH YOU, MS. JAVOS?
NOTHING. I'M A *JOURNALIST*. I DON'T CARE ABOUT WHAT YOU GUYS DO. I JUST WANT A GOOD STORY.
LET ME GO AND I'LL GIVE YOU THE ACCESS CODES TO THE DRONES--YOU CAN KILL THE FOOTAGE YOURSELF.

HMM. COMPLEX. HOW DO I KNOW I CAN TRUST YOU?
I'LL GIVE YOU SOMETHING ELSE. SOMETHING I KNOW AND YOU DON'T...SOMETHING THAT COULD REALLY HELP YOU WITH YOUR SUPERIORS.
LIKE A GESTURE OF GOODWILL.
I'M LISTENING.
OKAY. YOU SEE THOSE TWO?
YOUR SECURITY TEAM, I PRESUME. WHAT ABOUT THEM?
NO. THEY'RE PART OF ORGANA'S RESISTANCE. AND NOT JUST THAT.
YOU JUST CAPTURED HALF OF BLACK SQUADRON.
WELL.
THAT IS INTERESTING.

WHAT ARE WE GONNA DO WHEN WE FIND ODDY, POE?
WE'LL TAKE HIM BACK TO D'QAR, JUST LIKE WE TOLD HIS WIFE.
YOU THINK IT MAKES A DIFFERENCE, ALL THAT STUFF SHE TOLD US?
MAYBE. MAYBE LEIA GOES A LITTLE LENIENT ON HIM... I DON'T KNOW, SNAP.
I HOPE NOT. HE HAD OTHER CHOICES. HE COULD HAVE ASKED US FOR HELP. HE GOT L'ULO KILLED. I DON'T CARE WHAT HIS WIFE SAID. HE'S NOT A HERO.
YEAH. I KNOW. THIS KIND OF THING... IT'S WHY I LIKE BEING A PILOT. LEAVE THE COMPLICATED STUFF TO THE GENERALS.
BIG MORAL QUESTIONS ARE ABOVE MY PAY GRADE.
THEY PAY YOU?
FIGURE OF SPEECH.

YOU GET ANYTHING FROM HIM, TEREX?
NOT YET, COMMANDER MALARUS. HE IS PROVING... RESISTANT.
ALL RIGHT. KEEP WORKING HIM OVER--BUT DON'T LET HIM DIE. WE MAY NEED HIM ONCE BLACK SQUADRON SHOWS UP.
THE BEST TRAPS USE *LIVE BAIT.*
COMMANDER MALARUS--SENSORS ARE PICKING UP TWO X-WINGS INBOUND. THEY MATCH DESCRIPTIONS OF THE STARFIGHTERS BEING USED BY DAMERON AND WEXLEY.
WE HAVE ASSAULT TEAMS READY TO TAKE THEM AS SOON AS THEY LAND.
JUST TWO, *EH?* WELL, WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO GET THE *WHOLE* SQUADRON, BUT--
I'M SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOU, COMMANDER, BUT THERE'S MORE. WE ALSO HAVE A REPORT FROM THE TEAM WORKING TO SECURE THE THORILIDE MINES ON SPALEX.
YOU'RE *KIDDING* ME. ALL OF BLACK SQUADRON, IN MY HANDS ON THE *SAME DAY?* WHAT ARE THE ODDS OF THAT?
THE COMMANDING OFFICER CLAIMS TO HAVE JESSIKA PAVA AND KARÉ KUN IN CUSTODY. HE CALLED IT IN BECAUSE HE KNOWS YOU'VE BEEN ASSIGNED THEIR CAPTURE.
LOW.
LOW. SOUNDS ABOUT RIGHT. WELL...

...GUESS IT'S MY LUCKY DAY.

POE DAMERON
NEXT ISSUE: